



BIRCHES PRIMARY SCHOOL
Newsletter
November / December 2015

Medical Information

Please keep the school informed of any recently diagnosed allergies or other medical conditions.

Contact Details

Could you please ensure that school has an up to date phone number on which to contact you on. If you have moved house recently can you please make sure that you have notified school of your child's new address.

School Uniform

Please ensure children's names are on all coats, sweatshirts and on clothes that are removed to change for P.E and swimming. If possible please use name tabs as names written in ink can wear off during the year. The only piece of jewellery to be worn in school is a watch.

For health and safety reasons **earrings, rings and necklaces are not to be worn.**

Contacting School

If you are concerned or unsure of anything relating to your child please do not worry at home, pick up the phone and speak to either Mrs Watson or your child's teacher. We will be only too willing to talk to you after school at a mutually convenient time.

After School Activities

After school activities will take place on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 2.35 until 3.30pm. They start on the week beginning **Monday 2 November to Thursday 10 December.**

Monday:	Pottery (P7)	2.35pm – 3.30pm
	Christmas Craft (P6)	
Tuesday:	Football (P4-P7) £1.50 per session	2.40pm – 3.40pm
Wednesday:	French (P5 +P6)	2.35pm – 3.30pm
	Film Club (P7)	
Thursday:	Tennis (P6+P7)	2.35pm – 3.30pm

There will be no after school activities on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 November.

Poppy Appeal

Children can make a donation towards the Poppy Appeal. They can also purchase a range of 'poppy' themed goods sent by The Royal British Legion, these include Friendship Bracelets and Flexi rulers at £1.00 each and other items including a box of small pencils and wristbands at 50p each. All money goes to the Poppy Appeal.

Parent Interviews – Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 November

School will close early on both of these days. In order to ease traffic congestion we have staggered collection times.

- The school bus will be available for children who normally travel on it.
There will be two pick up times from school:
* 1.00pm – for children who are normally on the first run in the morning.
* 1.10pm – for children who are normally on the second run in the morning.

If you are unsure of which run your child is on please check with the bus driver.

- Children from P1 to P3 (and older brothers and sisters) are to be collected at 1.15pm.
- Children from P4 to P7 are to be collected at 1.30pm.

Parent interviews will commence at 1.40pm. Please make sure you have returned your parent interview sheet stating the day and time you prefer to your child's class teacher by Tuesday 3 November.





Loughshore Group

A range of family and community activities and events have been organised by the Loughshore Group this term. On Thursday 12 November the Action Cancer Bus will be coming to the school grounds. If you wish to avail of the Health Check please apply on line through the Action Cancer website.

Numicon Parents Evening Wednesday 18 November – 7.00pm

We will be holding a numeracy evening on Wednesday 18 November looking at the new numeracy resource, Numicon. All parents of children in the foundation stage are welcome to attend.

School Disco – Friday 20 November 6.00pm - 7.30pm

The PTA have organised a disco for all children who attend the Birches Primary School. Further information will follow shortly.

Flu Vaccine – Friday 27 November

The school nurses will come to school on Friday 27 November to administer the flu vaccine. **It is important that all forms have been signed and returned regardless of whether or not your child is receiving the vaccine.**

Pantomime P3 – P7– Tuesday 1 December

Children from P3 to P7 will be given the opportunity to see Little Red Riding Hood at The Market Place, Armagh. This will take place on Tuesday 1 December.

The children will leave school at 9.15am and will **NOT be back in time for School Dinner.**

They will need to bring a packed lunch with them which they can eat on their return at approximately 12.40pm. All children will go home at their usual time. The cost of admission to the pantomime is £7.50 per child and can be brought to their class teacher by Friday 27 November.

Christmas Dinner Wednesday 2 December

Christmas Dinner is on Wednesday 2 December. If your child wishes to take dinner on this day it is very important that they let their teacher know on Monday 30 November for catering purposes.

Model Fair – Seagoe Hotel - Wednesday 2 December

The school will be selling a range of Christmas decorations, second hand toys, books and games at the model fair held in the Seagoe Hotel from 5.00pm to 9pm.

Pantomime P1 and P2 - Tuesday 8 December

Children from P1 and P2 will be given the opportunity to see Prince Perfect's Cunning Plan at The Bardic Theatre, Donaghmore. This will take place on Tuesday 8 December.

The children will leave school at 10.00am and will be back in time for School Dinner. The cost of admission to the pantomime is £9.00 per child and can be brought to their class teacher by Friday 4 December.

P3 and P4 Christmas Performance Wednesday 9 December

The Performance will start at 10.00am and should end at approximately 11.15am.

P1 and P2 Christmas Performance Thursday 10 December

The P1 and P2 Christmas performance will begin at 10.00am and should end at approximately 11.00am.

Party Days and Non-Uniform Days – Thursday 17 and Friday 18 December

Christmas parties for P1 – P4 will take place on Thursday 17 December.

Christmas parties for P5 – P7 will take place on Friday 18 December.

Save the Children – Friday 18 December – Christmas Jumper Day

Children can wear a special 'Christmas Jumper', a Santa hat or come to school in their own clothes to help raise money for Save the Children. If children wish to take part they can bring £1.00.





Dates for your Diary

Parent Interviews

Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 November
School closes early

Action Cancer Bus

Thursday 12 November – book online for an appointment

Numeracy Evening

Wednesday 18 November 7pm

School Disco

Friday 20 November – 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Flu Vaccine

Friday 27 November

P3 – P7 Trip To Pantomime

Tuesday 1 December – ‘Little Red Riding Hood’ - £7.50

School Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 2 December

Model Fair – Seagoe Hotel

Wednesday 2 December

P1 – P2 Trip to Pantomime

Tuesday 8 December – Prince Perfect’s Cunning Plan £9.00

P3 – P4 Christmas Performance

Wednesday 9 December 10.00am

P1 – P2 Christmas Performance

Thursday 10 December 10.00am

Christmas Parties P1 - P4

Thursday 17 December

Non-Uniform Day - £1.00 (for today and tomorrow)
School will close early (see sheet for details)

Save the Children – Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 18 December

Christmas Party P5 – P7

Friday 18 December

School will close early (see sheet for details)

NO DINNER SERVED TODAY

School Reopens

Monday 4 January

***I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year***





Birches Primary School

CAR PARK



Morning Drop Off

To ease traffic congestion at peak times please ensure that the person dropping off or collecting your child is aware of these procedures:

- **Do not cross over the white line at the top of the car park** – it is very important that this area is kept free of moving traffic so that children are able to be dropped off and walk into school safely. This is for staff cars only.
- Parents can drop children off from 8.30am.
- If you wish to talk to your child's class teacher please make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.
- If you are bringing your child into school please park in a designated parking space.
- Registration starts at 8.40am. This is when the class teaching time officially starts. Being punctual will ensure your child will be organised and ready to start their school day.

Home collection time

To ease traffic congestion the school has staggered home collection times for P1 – P3.

- P1 children are to be collected at 1.25pm
- P2 children are to be collected at 1.35pm
- P3 children are to be collected at 1.45pm (Tuesday and Wednesday)
- P3 children are to be collected at 2.35pm (Monday, Thursday and Friday)
- P4 – P7 children:
 - to be collected at 2.35pm
 - school bus will take eligible children home
 - after school activities end at 3.35pm

Early Christmas Closing

Thursday 17 December -School will close early.

In order to ease traffic congestion we have staggered collection times.

- Children from P1 to P3 (and older brothers and sisters) are to be collected at 12.30pm.
- Children from P4 to P7 are to be collected at 12.45pm.
- The school bus will be available for children who normally travel on it.
There will be two pick up times from school:
 - * 12.50pm – for children who are normally on the first run in the morning.
 - * 1.05pm – for children who are normally on the second run in the morning.

If you are unsure of which run your child is on please check with the bus driver.

Friday 18 December – School will close early NO DINNER SERVED TODAY

In order to ease traffic congestion we have staggered collection times.

- Children from P1 to P3 (and older brothers and sisters) are to be collected at 11.30pm.
- Children from P4 to P7 are to be collected at 11.45pm.
- The school bus will be available for children who normally travel on it.
There will be two pick up times from school:
 - * 11.50pm – for children who are normally on the first run in the morning.
 - * 12.05pm – for children who are normally on the second run in the morning.

If you are unsure of which run your child is on please check with the bus driver.

